

## BROADCAST 5024

DATE: June 30, 2008

TO: Local departments of social services directors

FROM: Wallace "Bo" Harris, COO

TIME: 11:15 a.m.

SUBJECT: End of Interdepartmental Regulation Program for Children's Residential Facilities

CONTACT: Charlene Vincent at (804) 726-7097 or [charlene.vincent@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:charlene.vincent@dss.virginia.gov)

As of July 1, 2008, the Interdepartmental Regulation Program for Children's Residential Facilities will end. This action is the result of Senate Bill 472 that was approved by the 2008 General Assembly and was signed into law by Governor Kaine on April 23, 2008. The new legislation requires the Boards of the Departments of Juvenile Justice; Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services; and Social Services to adopt regulations establishing each department as the single licensing agency with the exception of educational programs licensed by the Department of Education. The Department of Education (DOE) will no longer have the authority to license a children's residential facility and will only license educational programs offered in a licensed/certified children's residential facility.

The *Standards for Interdepartmental Regulation of Children's Residential Facilities* (22 VAC 42-11-10 et. seq.) shall remain in full force and effect until such time as each Board promulgates regulations as required by the new legislation. Each department must promulgate regulations by October 31, 2009. Once regulations have been promulgated by a department the *Standards for Interdepartmental Regulation of Children's Residential Facilities* will cease to apply.

Those facilities that currently have the Department of Education (DOE) as their lead regulatory agency will be licensed by one of the other agencies as of July 1, 2008. The licensing agency will be determined based on the facility's population and services to be offered.

Those facilities that have DOE as their secondary regulatory agency will be receiving a separate license for their school program from DOE. The facility's current license remains in effect until its expiration date or until DOE issues a new license. DOE plans to issue new licenses to applicable school programs within one year.

As of July 1, 2008, you will need to contact the facility's licensing/certification agency with any questions rather than the Office of Interdepartmental Regulation. Please be aware that each regulatory agency will be changing forms and procedures.

To determine a regulatory agency for a children's residential facility please use the following contacts:

## **Department of Education (DOE)**

DOE will license schools for children with disabilities located in a children's residential facility. Educational facilities are listed at

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/dbpubs/doedir/>

Click on residential schools for students with disabilities.

DOE licensing contacts are Michele Hopkins ([michele.hopkins@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:michele.hopkins@doe.virginia.gov)) at (804) 225-2725 or Sandra E. Ruffin ([sandra.ruffin@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:sandra.ruffin@doe.virginia.gov)) at (804) 225-2768.

## **Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)**

DJJ will continue to certify facilities that they fund. This includes juvenile correctional centers, detention homes, and some community group homes. They are listed at

[www.djj.virginia.gov](http://www.djj.virginia.gov)

Go to residential programs.

## **Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS)**

DMHMRSAS will continue to license facilities that focus on clinical treatment. They also license programs for the mentally retarded (intellectually disabled) and head injured as well as, substance abuse treatment programs. A directory of programs can be found at:

<http://www.dmhmrsas.virginia.gov/LPSS/LPSS.aspx>

The main number for DMHMRSAS licensing is (804) 786-1747.

## **Department of Social Services (DSS)**

DSS will continue to license programs that focus on offering a home to a child. Some teach independent living skills. Some offer emergency shelter. Most mother/baby programs are licensed by DSS. A listing of facilities can be found at:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/facility/search/crf.cgi>

DSS licensing contacts are Lafond Blount at (804) 726-7139 or Robin Ely at (804) 726-7142.

The Office of Interdepartmental Regulation will become the Office of Background Investigations. This new office will be managed by Charlene Vincent and will continue to process criminal background investigations for all children's residential facilities (except those certified by DJJ) and child placing agencies. The Child Protective Services Central Registry Search Unit will be moved from the Division of Family Services to the new Office of Background Investigations. All requests for criminal background investigations formerly addressed to the Office of Interdepartmental Regulation should now be addressed to the Office of Background Investigations.